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SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 31 Jul 53

SUBJECT Reception of Foreign Broadcasts in the Carpatho-Ukraine

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25X1

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1. Radio receivers which could be purchased in the Carpatho-Ukraine by the general public were the following:
 - a. "Ural" make, eight tubes, four wave lengths (long, medium, short, and ultra-short), equipped with a built-in record player. The price of this set was approximately 1,100 rubles;
 - b. "Moskva" make, six or seven tubes, four wave lengths. Price of this set was around 900 rubles;
 - c. "Universal" make, six tubes, three or four wave lengths (long, medium, and short), at the price of 600 rubles;
 - d. "Moskva" make, (referred to as "Little Moskva"), two or three tubes, two wave lengths (long and medium), about 200 rubles.
2. There were no restrictions whatsoever on the purchase of receivers; anybody, if he had enough money, could buy as many sets as he wanted. 25X1
 no records of purchases were kept by the stores.
3. Almost all of the Polish, Czechoslovak, Hungarian, and Rumanian broadcasts could be received by practically any radio set in Uzhgorod /4838N-2219E/ and Mukachevo /4826N-2242E/ and probably throughout the Carpathian Oblast. Some of these broadcasts were heard even better than those which originated in Kiev and Moscow. However, since the contents of these Satellite broadcasts did not differ much from that of USSR broadcasts, people in the Carpatho-Ukraine ignored them for the most part (unless they still had relatives or property left in any of those countries). 25X1

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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

25X1

and RFE broadcasts could be received by any of the radio receivers

25X1

4. There was a sufficient supply of replacement parts for all radio receivers normally on sale in all cities and towns of the Carpathian Oblast. Repair service for radio receivers was available throughout the Oblast, even in villages and kolkhozy where there would always be one or two amateur radio repairmen. Supply of radio repair parts had been somewhat scarce in the first years after World War II, but from 1949 and especially 1950 on, there was practically no shortage of any spare parts for Soviet-made radios.
5. Because of the high prices of the better radio receivers, only well-to-do people were able to purchase the radio receivers capable of receiving Western radio broadcasts. This group was restricted to leading personnel in the administration, industry, and Party, and of course, Stakhanovites.
6. [redacted] in cities such as Mukachevo and Uzhgorod, the number of families which had radio receivers capable of receiving Western broadcasts did not exceed five to seven per cent; in rural areas, where there was electric current, this percentage dropped to from one-half to one per cent. It should be kept in mind that even in May 1952, 50% of rural communities in the Carpathian Oblast had no electric current. (In such villages, if there was a school or a club, there might be a battery receiver.) [redacted] in urban areas the percentage of the population possessing receivers of limited area reception capacity was about 30%. In rural communities with electric current this percentage was 10 to 15%. The percentage of the population using wire diffusion loud-speakers in urban areas was around 50% and in rural areas about 30%. [redacted] listening to any foreign broadcasts was not officially prohibited. However, everybody knew that this was frowned upon by the authorities and that the consequences for persons reported or caught listening to foreign broadcasts could be severe. [redacted]
7. [redacted] Some broadcasts from the West in the Czech language were not jammed too badly, [redacted] It could be taken for granted that practically everybody in the Carpathian Oblast who owned a powerful receiver listened occasionally to some of the Western broadcasts. If the jamming had not been so strong, people would have listened to them more. Listening to Western broadcasts was normally done in the evening, when no neighbors were around, either by single individuals or in family circles.
8. [redacted] only one wired loud-speaker installation, which was in Mukachevo. [redacted] a similar one was probably in Uzhgorod. About 50% of all radio receivers in Mukachevo were able to get nothing else but the broadcasts through this installation.

25X1

25X1

25X1

25X1

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